

University offers affordable housing to area Navy families

By JO2 Alex Carfrae

NBVC Public Affairs

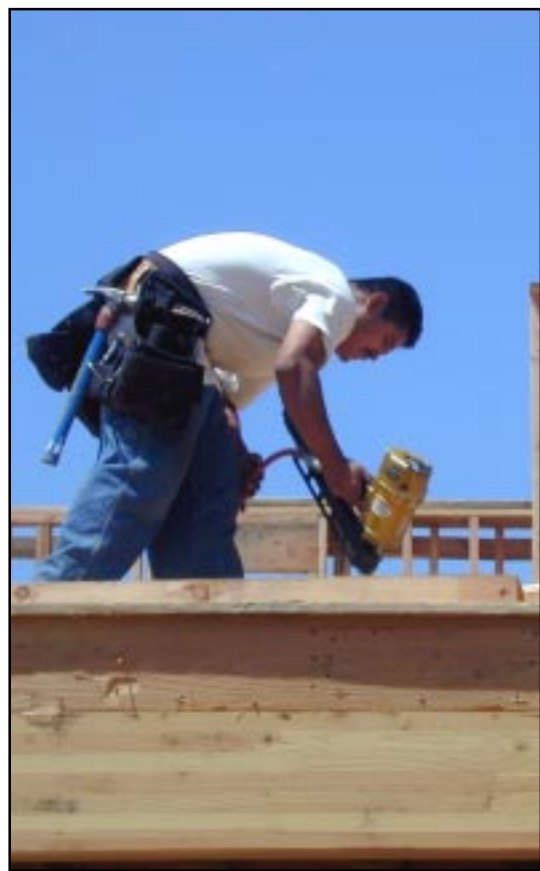
CAMARILLO, Calif. – While housing costs in Ventura County continue to skyrocket and the availability of housing is among the lowest it's been in years, Navy families have just been given a unique solution to the problem.

California State University, Channel Islands in Camarillo has started construction on brand new housing for the new school's faculty and staff, and they're opening the doors to Navy families.

"We have a mix of apartments, townhomes and single family homes," said Kristen Bradley, sales and marketing manager for the university's housing facilities. "Residents will have swimming pools, playing fields, tot lots, community meeting spaces and a mix of hiking and walking trails to relax in."

The school is building the housing in five phases. Likewise, the school is making the housing available in phases. "The faculty and staff will be our first priority," said Bradley. The school plans to offer the housing up to other university partners in the future.

But the school won't take just anyone. Being on active duty is the first requirement.



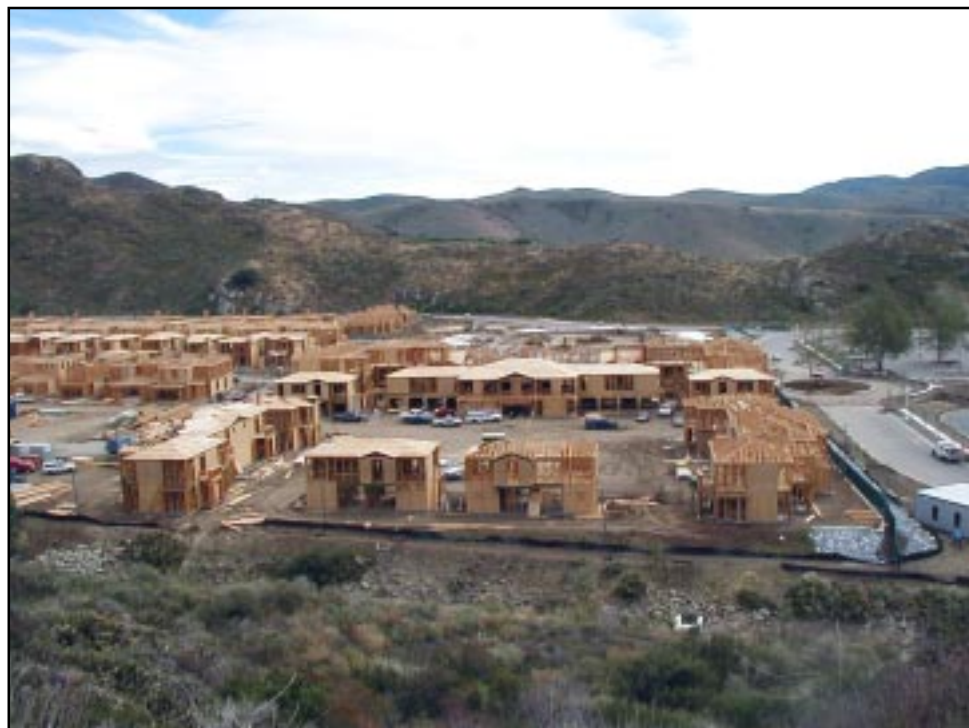
PH3 Brian Bynem

A worker uses a pneumatic nailer to build a window frame at the new housing area.

"Right now, we're only making housing available to officers and married enlisted families," said Bradley. She added that when a home owner leaves active duty (EAOS, retirement), they are no longer eligible and must find other housing.

If you fit the qualifications, you next need to choose from an apartment, townhome or a single family home. The apartment homes are only available for rent, with estimated prices from \$1,128 per month for a one bedroom with a den to \$1,556 per month for a three bedroom with two and-a-half baths. Townhomes can be purchased or rented with prices ranging from \$189,000 to \$229,000 or rent for \$2,010 to \$2,272 per month. Single family homes are available for purchase only and range in price from \$228,000 to \$298,000. "Right now there are some very attractive lending deals with 100 percent financing that the Navy families can apply for," said Bradley.

The first phase of construction is underway and seems to be right on schedule. "The workers have finished most of the electrical work and are just now installing the drywall," explained Bradley. She says the homes should



Tim Seybold

The mountains provide a peaceful backdrop to the new housing being built at California State University, Channel Islands in Camarillo. The housing is planned for the school's faculty and staff, but university officials have opened these doors to Navy families as well.

be available for move-in somewhere in the August through October timeframe.

The homes are built in the distinctive Southern California Spanish and Monterey-style architecture. Some homes have private balconies and courtyards.

And residents won't have to go far to get their daily necessities. A nearby town center will have a bookstore, fitness center, cafe and marketplace.

In keeping with a university-oriented environment, the school is enacting a number of purchase and resale requirements. "One requirement is that there will be a cap on the appreciation of the home's value," noted Bradley. That cap will closely parallel the Consumer Price Index, (one of the many measures of inflation) or a maximum of three percent per annum. The cap is in place to try to keep the homes affordable. Without the cap, and restrictions, sellers could ask whatever price they wanted for the home, and with the Southern California real estate market the way it is, they would probably get any price they asked. Sellers are also restricted by being able to sell only to those qualified (faculty, staff and other university partners). Bradley says there will be a waiting list, and there should be no problem selling your home when your tour in Ventura County is complete.

Gina Petry, wife of CMCS(SCW) Jerry Petry with NMCB-5 says the great location and affordability of the housing is a great deal for them. "If you bought a home in any other area of Ventura County, you'd be paying two to three times the price of one of these homes. There's absolutely no comparison in the value."

For more information, contact Kristen Bradley at (805) 437-8896.

Navy Lodge receives prestigious
Carlson Award ... Page 4

New CO takes the reins of VAW-116's
Sun Kings... Page 13

From the desk of the commanding officer



Capt. Jim Rainwater

I think it would be difficult to find someone who doesn't think that family is important. From the day we were born, and throughout our lives, we find support and comfort in our families. Of course, the roles change. In the beginning, family was mother, father and maybe siblings. As we grew older and moved away from home, family became the anchor. It is where we looked for support and it was the place we could return to when the world got a little tough. For many of us, marriage and families of our own were the next step. Again, the roles have changed. We become the anchors for our children.

Whatever role we play in the family structure, we can agree that it is important to us. People in the military are often called upon to serve far away from home for extended periods of time. Many of us know what it is like to be away from home on deployment. We know the pain of having to leave our families to stand on their own, and we know the challenges of returning to a household that has run for months without us. It is a sacrifice to be away, but one we make for our country's defense. Thomas Jefferson once said, "The happiest moments of my life have been the few which I have passed in the bosom of my family." This is the bittersweet side of military life; living the adventure, yet being away from our loved ones and home. That love and commitment to family is the thing that pulls us through when times get tough.

I once read a quote in the Phoenix Times of a Navy mother who said, "An army of moms would be hard to beat." That might be true, but then again, they would probably get a tough fight from an army of Navy spouses.

This Friday is "Military Spouse Appreciation Day." I wanted to say a special thanks to all our families here at NBVC. I believe that our Sailors are some of the finest to serve the Navy, and their ability to do their job is due largely to the support they get at home. Too often I think you are over looked, but this is your time to shine. Thank you for all you do, and all the sacrifices you make to keep our Navy the finest in the world.

Because family is important to the Navy, organizations like the Fleet and Family Support Center offer classes and counseling to families. I urge all of you to take a few minutes to see what they have available to you. Continued education can only have positive results and taking the time to strengthen your family is the greatest gift you can give the ones you love.

Beware of testing scams

A major pattern of abuse has been identified across military installations within the United States which uses the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) name by unscrupulous salespersons to sell "so-called" test preparation materials. These salesmen set up tables at the Base Exchange, claiming they are authorized to sell encyclopedias and educational materials in the Navy Exchange and AAFES (Army/Air Force Exchange System); some claim to be from the base education center and make appointments in the member's home.

A central theme of these unscrupulous agents lies in their continuous promise that they are selling CLEP home-study kits that will prepare individuals for the CLEP test. Unfortunately, these study materials are inadequate for preparation and the claims made by these agents are patently false. Some study packages include encyclopedias, which are not necessary. To make matters worse, the materials often cost as much as \$3,900. Some companies tell the Service members they can use TA or GI Bill benefits, which is not accurate. Contracts are normally written with a down payment, i.e., \$75, and the remainder in monthly payments of \$75-\$80. When the Service members realize they have been cheated, they are told that they are obligated to reimburse or threatened with destruction of their credit rating. Often the test preparation company and the lending party are in close alliance (or one in the same) and are purposely intimidating.

There are a variety of free or low-cost alternatives for acquiring needed study references for CLEP and other credit-by-exam programs. CLEP sample tests are distributed to all DANTES test centers, available for test control officers to

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The Lighthouse

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Naval Base Ventura County

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A CLOSE UP look at PW's Employee of the Quarter



Congratulations to Gary Brunn, NBVC Public Works' latest Civilian Employee of the Quarter for his outstanding devotion to duty, enthusiasm and teamwork. The Public Works Employee of the Quarter is chosen by a group of the employee's peers.

If you should ask me...

What do you like best about your job?



"Helping people"

AD2 Belinda Yoshikawa, NBVC

"Working with lots of different people"



SW1(SCW) Brian Wood, FISC



"Diving and blowing things up"

EM1(EOD) Joshua E. Dowden, EOD, Pt. Mugu

"Being responsible for a multi million dollar airplane"



AN Donald Means, VAW-116



"Learning all types of jobs other than just my own rate"

BU3 Elizabeth Harns, NBVC

Community Calendar

Golden Hawks Fund Raiser

The VAW-112 spouses are moonlighting for one-night only at the Point Mugu McDonalds May 15 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. to raise money for the homecoming party. Only inside sales count, so don't use the drive-thru. Contact Pam Ortiz at 986-9314 for more information.

CPOA Dependent Scholarships

The Point Mugu Chief Petty Officer Association (CPOA) is offering four \$500 scholarships for military dependents. The scholarships are for the 2002/2003 academic school year. Applicant must be a military dependent of an active duty E-1 through E-9 sponsor who is stationed at the NBVC Pt. Mugu complex or a dependent of any member in good standing with the Point Mugu CPOA.

The two categories are "Military Dependent" and "High School Senior Military Dependent" with GPA prerequisites of 3.0 and 3.2 respectively. Applications must be received by July 12, 2002 and scholarship recipients will be notified by August 3, 2002. Application forms can be obtained at the Point Mugu Library and at the Navy College Office.

For further information contact ADC(AW) Wayne Marcus at 989-0287.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day

The Fleet and Family Support Center is holding a Military Spouse Appreciation Day at Port Hueneme Bldg. 1169, Fri., May 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. FFSC will be serving cookies and handing out information for military spouses, and doing balloons and face decorating for the children. Contact Paula Phillips at 982-3147 for more information.

Health Promotion

Since May is National High Blood Pressure Month, help yourself maintain a healthy body weight. Body fat tends to increase as people age, resulting in extra fat around the waistline. The best way to trim the fat and drop a few notches in your belt is to reduce fat and calorie intake and exercise regularly.

New "preschool in motion" class

For 3 to 5-year-olds on Monday and Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Port Hueneme Youth Center. Call 982-4726 or 982-4218 for information.

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Celebration

NBVC's EEO council is holding a celebration luncheon May 23 at Port Hueneme's Bolles Field from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Guest speaker will be Glenn Omatsu, professor at Cal State Northridge.

Asian cultural dances and songs will highlight the event. A menu featuring various Asian dishes will be served. Tickets are \$6.50 and are available from your command Asian Pacific American Committee members. For more information, contact HMC(SW/AW) Jose Baluyot at 982-6382 or Debbie Wilson at 982-2454.

Blood Drives

United Blood Services is holding the following blood drives:

-Pt. Mugu: May 29 at the Bldg. 112 & 116 parking lot from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

-Port Hueneme: May 31 at the Bldg. 1000 parking lot from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A valid ID card is required. Call 805-654-8104 or 800-715-3699 for an appointment.

Memorial funds established for fallen aviators

Memorial funds have been established in honor of the two aviators killed while performing at the 2002 Point Mugu Air Show.

A trust for the children of Navy Cmdr. Michael Norman has been established. Those wishing to send donations may address them to:

Michael Todd Norman Memorial Fund

Account No. 429-217-307-1

1122 East Collins Street

Oxnard, CA 93030-1804

-Or any Washington Mutual Bank-

The family of Cmdr Norman has set up a web site in his honor: www.stormnorman.com.

Andrew D. Muhs Memorial Fund

P.O. Box 4266

Port Hueneme, CA 93044-4266.

Donations to the fund for Marine Corps Capt.

Andrew Muhs, will benefit military and Marine Corps charities.

Port Hueneme Navy Lodge receives Carlson Award

By JO2 Alex Carfrae

NBVC Public Affairs

The Navy Lodge at Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Port Hueneme was recently selected to receive the Navy Exchange Command's highest honor to a Navy Lodge — the Carlson Award. The Port Hueneme Lodge was chosen based on overall guest satisfaction, employee relations, financial performance and operational performance.

The Navy Lodge system operates 41 lodges worldwide and provides quality and affordable lodging to Navy, other military and Department of Defense members who are on temporary duty or are relocating.

"We were very surprised to hear of our selection," said Altherah Sweeney, general manager of the Port Hueneme Lodge. "Our staff works very hard all of the time to provide clean rooms and excellent customer service; they are just ecstatic to know their efforts have really paid off."

An official awards ceremony was held May 6 at the Lodge. "Being recognized for your accomplishments is always an honor," said Capt. Jim Rainwater, commanding officer, NBVC. "But being recognized with a prestigious award such as the Carlson Award three times is outstanding. This is a fine example of the Lodge's continued commitment to excellence."

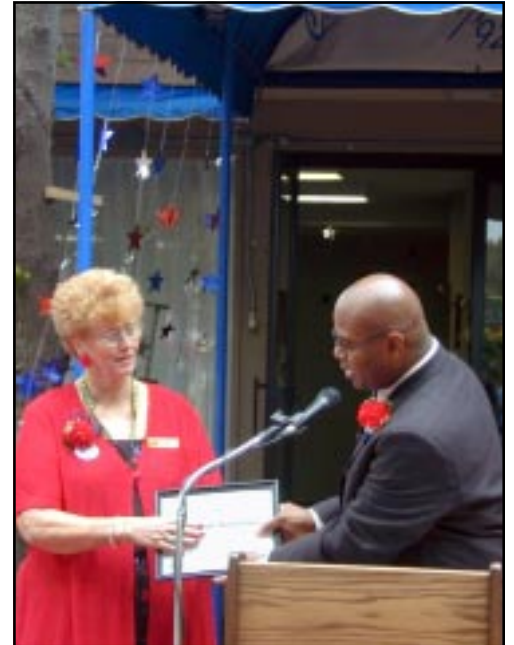
In addition to the Carlson Award, Sweeney was recognized for having the highest Associate Satisfaction Index (ASI) of the entire Navy Lodge system. The ASI is a measure of employee relations and satisfaction. "Out of the 41 lodges around the world, this store won the award," said Gary King, District Manager, Southern California Region of the Navy Exchange. "It was extremely gratifying."

"This shows she not only takes excellent care of her guests, but takes excellent care of her associates, too!" said Sante Campanile, General Manager of the Port Hueneme Navy Exchange.

Port Hueneme's Navy Lodge is a three-time (1991, 1992 and 2001) winner of the award. The Lodge was originally built in 1970 with 22 guest rooms. An additional 26 rooms were added in 1995. In FY2001, the Port Hueneme Lodge served 28,884 guests with 3,089 registrations. The average stay was 4.3 days and occupancy was 94 percent.

"I'm extremely proud of all of the Carlson award winners and finalists," said Michael Bockelman, Director, Navy Exchange Command's Navy Lodge Program. "The associates and managers at these Navy Lodges should be commended for the exemplary service they provide day in and day out to our guests."

The Carlson Award was established in 1989 by the Navy Lodge and the Navy Exchange Command to recognize excellence within the Navy Lodge program. The award is named for Edward E. Carlson, who served on the Secretary of the Navy's Exchange System Advisory Committee from 1965 to 1989. During his tenure, Carlson provided advice and professional guidance concerning the effective operation of Navy Lodges. During his career, Carlson was the president of Westin Hotels and president and CEO of United Airlines.



PH3 Brian Bynem

Port Hueneme Navy Lodge General Manager Altherah Sweeney, left, receives the Carlson Award from Navy Lodge Program Specialist Ron Tolson.

NBVC Point Mugu Chapel Youth Group visits Mexico

By JO2 Lynn Kirby

NBVC Public Affairs

POINT MUGU, Calif.—Five members of the chapel's youth group here recently got the opportunity to witness first hand what a difference they can make in the lives of those less fortunate. The group visited Camarillo Christian Church's youth group missionary project in El Florido, just 45 minutes southeast of Tijuana, Mexico.

The group rode down to El Florido along with two adult chaperones and a group of parents and senior citizens from Camarillo Christian Church who were going down for a family day visit. One of the chaperones was Lori Hamilton, director of religious education and the youth minister for Point Mugu Chapel.

"They (Camarillo Christian Church) welcomed us with open arms, and the kids really felt like they were a part of it," Hamilton said.

Hamilton learned of the missionary project by attending Saturday night services at Camarillo Christian Church. As soon as she found out about the family day visit, she asked the youth minister, Hal Shrader, if she could offer the opportunity to her youth group so they could see what a difference youths can make.

Shrader said they were more than happy to have Hamilton and her youth group visit their site with the family members. "We want to share the experiences we've had and be a resource to others."

"There's the sense in a lot of kids that they're the church of tomorrow," Shrader said. "We show them a way they can impact someone's life and make a difference today. We really challenge them to make a difference," he continued.

Hamilton said that even though the kids only visited the site for a day, seeing the lifestyle of people less fortunate really impacted them. "It really gave them a reality check. I was really glad to see that the kids understood that they have it made," she said.

Camarillo Christian Church has been going on youth missions for seven years now. This year's mission was to build a church in El Florido. They had about 75 youths and adults go on the weeklong mission trip. The trip was in mid March, and the project was completed in time for the first service in the new building to be held on Easter Sunday.

Amor Ministries is the non-profit organization that works

with church missionary groups all over the world and the local churches to bring better homes and churches to the less fortunate in Mexico. For more information on this organization and its missionary projects, go to amor.org.

Hamilton would like to personally thank Camarillo Christian Church for welcoming the Point Mugu Chapel youth group on this meaningful trip.



Lauren Porter

Stephanie Ferdin, a member of the Point Mugu Chapel's youth group fastens roofing paper with a hammer in El Florido, Baja California, Mexico. A youth group recently returned from the Tijuana suburb after completing a week-long missionary trip.

Port Hueneme reserve mobilization team to deactivate

By Linda Wadley
CBC Public Affairs

PORT HUENEME, Calif. – Members of Personnel Mobilization Team (PMT) 2820 will deactivate over the next few months, and step back into their civilian shoes after providing mobilization/demobilization services to 425 Navy reservists since October 1. A reserve unit, PMT 2820’s mission is to support the preparation and processing of Navy reservists in areas such as medical, dental, personnel records, legal documentation and military training.

Beginning late September, PMT 2820 personnel activated at the Naval Reserve Center (NRC), Port Hueneme and then reported to Thirty-First Naval Construction Regiment (31st NCR) as part of President Bush’s reserve call up. In total, about two-thirds of the 28-member team were activated.

“The entire personnel mobilization and demobilization process has been an unprecedented evolution across the United States. This is the first time the paper guidance has been put into full practice since its concept from Desert Shield/Storm Lessons Learned,” said Capt.(s) Terri Foltz, commanding officer of PMT 2820, and deputy mobilization officer for Naval Mobilization Processing Site (NMPS), Port Hueneme, one of 14 Navy mobilization processing sites in the country.

Being reservists themselves, they had a special insight into the stresses, challenges and rewards that come from what is usually a sudden “call to active duty.”

SKCS Michelle Murphy, senior enlisted advisor with PMT 2820 said that having just gone through the mobilization process was a tremendous benefit to the team. “One, you know where the holdups are, because you’ve been through it. Two, you’ve had to put your job on hold, say goodbye to the kids...so you can empathize. It helps a lot having been through the process. You have more resources and know the right person to send them to for help. She added that when a new or unique issue occurred, the NRC on base was a great resource. “If we didn’t know, they did,” said Murphy.

With Port Hueneme as their regular drill site, PMT 2820 routinely works with the full-time NMPS team at 31st NCR on mobilization planning and execution including several mobilization exercises (MOBEXs). “We were much more prepared than sites who had only done it on paper. The framework was there, we just had to refine it,” she said. Murphy went on to say that during the course of the last several months, the team has put numerous SOPs in place. “You figure out that the process takes longer than in an exercise. We learned that when we bring people in that there is a lot more record keeping. We also needed to refine the transportation,” said Murphy.

She added that for her the most satisfying experience was the attitude of the reserve groups being processed. The reservists were called on almost immediately upon arrival for fire and security watch, quarters cleaning, watch bills and processing requirements. “They

jumped right in taking on their roles, pitching in to get the job done. Their attitude was great, making our job that much easier.”

According to Foltz, the demobilization process was another challenge as this portion had not been simulated during previous MOBEXs conducted. “Official guidance was sparse and we had to wait for BUPERS to publish the details for this contingency, which occurred at the midnight hour of the start of demobilization,” said Foltz.

“The PMT staff, amidst the challenge of being concurrently demobilized, had to modify the Active Duty Transition Program [TAP Classes] to address those areas unique to returning to Reserve status, reduce the timeline down from four days to four hours, and deliver the program to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5...all done with an hour to spare,” added Foltz.

“It’s been a rewarding challenge,” she said, emphasizing that great working relationships have developed within PMT with 31st NCR, Personnel Support Detachment, Dental, Medical, Fleet and Family Support Center, Chaplain, Navy Legal Support Office, and the Veterans Administration. “The teamwork up and down the multiple chains of command, reserve and active echelons, have demonstrated the resolve of the entire Navy. On behalf of my entire crew, it has been an honor to serve,” said Foltz.

Over the next several months, the men and women of PMT 2820 will continue to compile after action reports and lessons learned to pass on to all the members of their team and other PMT commands.

PMT-2820 personnel, shown here shortly after the unit was activated, was recently given the order to deactivate.



U.S. Navy Photo

Navy Base responds with professionalism after accident

By John Battey

Aerotech News & Review

Following the crash of a QF-4 Phantom at the Point Mugu air show, a dedicated and well-trained team sprung into action. Whatever the incident, the members of the Quick Reaction Team at Naval Base Ventura County have a job to do.

“We have trained and drilled on duplicate off base and on base incidents,” said Bill Hudson, director of Force Protection at NBVC. Hudson has more than 200 employees under his direction. “If an accident occurs off base, the California Highway Patrol and the County Sheriff respond first. On base, base police will respond immediately and supply around-the-clock security until the investigation is complete at the accident site.”

Because of security concerns following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, a lot of special “behind the scenes” security measures were in place at this year’s Point Mugu air show. Some of these included the presence of the FBI. Federal agents operated a command post at the air show and supplied high tech equipment such as sensors and cameras.

The Naval Criminal Investigation Service was also present, along with Ventura County Sheriffs and the California Highway Patrol including over 120 motorcycle officers as a show of force and to shore up the security presence. Base security also brought in military members from all over the state including Army, Navy and National Guard personnel.

The Navy facilities at NAS China Lake, NAS El Centro and San Diego all supplied extra security including working dog teams to double the normal force at the base. Army Reserve members now called up on active duty with no background experience were trained to assist at the air show and helped create special quick reaction teams to respond to any incident.

At the April 20 show, countless security personnel performed their duties in a highly professional manner. “There were a few people who were key to the effort including Paul Wunsch, security coordinator for the show, and Lt. Dave

Dimmick and Jess Romero, of NBVC Force Protection,” said Hudson. “All of them did the job of two or three people and they were key folks from my viewpoint.”

The Federal Fire Department of Ventura County operates a fire station serving the Navy facilities at Point Mugu, Port Hueneme and San Nicolas Island. The station also has a qualified hazardous material team and state certified personnel for emergency medical response in addition to 24-hour fire and rescue response.

In charge of the station is Rick Brockman, who was en route from one standby position to another when the April 20 accident occurred. He immediately went to the airfield fire station, picked up a vehicle, and responded to the scene with three crash trucks, eight personnel, and two battalion chiefs including one from the Ventura County Fire Department.

The Ventura County Sheriff Department’s helicopter had been on static display, and was part of the emergency re-

sponse plan. It immediately took off and responded to the crash scene.

The fire department continuously trains for any possible incident and, just like other key departments, they have an Incident action plan in place. On April 20, the department’s training “just kicked in.”

The department responded to the scene and put out the initial fire, making sure the area was safe. Then, while security forces secured the site, explosive ordnance disposal and environmental personnel went into action. The American Red Cross responded with a canteen supplying food, drink and coffee to the teams on site.

“We had a plan and followed it,” Hudson said. “I’m as proud as I could be. I only wish we could have done more.”

Editor’s note: Aerotech News and Review is the publisher of The Lighthouse. Rick Craft contributed to this article.

Local CPOAs merge; establish single organization for all NBVC tenants

PORT HUENEME, Calif. – All Chief Petty Officers’ Associations (CPOA) recently joined their efforts to establish a single CPOA for all commands here.

While the name of the organization is the PH CPOA, all enlisted personnel E-7 and above from all services, active-duty, reserve and retired are welcome. “Our main goal is to get the word out that we’re here, and we’re open to everyone,” said CMC Kathy L. Keith, PH CPOA president.

At this time, it’s not logistically possible for the Port Hueneme CPOA to join with the Point Mugu unit. However, the presidents and vice presidents from each organization are attending each other’s meetings. “We’re working together, trying to get more unity among the organizations,” Keith said.

Although the PH CPOA has only been meeting for less than two months they already have about 80 members. “We’re continually getting a few more people at each meeting,” said Keith.

Keith said that Port Hueneme commands offer just about anything anyone could possibly need. It’s just a matter of knowing where to find it. “We’re trying to get more resources available to us, but also offer more resources to more organizations,” she said.

The PH CPOA meets every third Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m. at the Reef, the Chiefs’ club at Port Hueneme. The next meeting is May 21. Keith extends an invitation to attend the next meeting to all eligible enlisted personnel from all services, including the Coast Guard. Keith also extends the invitation to personnel already members of another organization, including eligible members at Point Mugu.

For more information on the PH CPOA or to be added to the organization’s mailing list for updates, call Keith at 982-3632.

2002 Seabee Days logo contest winner announced

By **Linda Wadley**
CBC Public Affairs

PORT HUENEME, Calif. – Heather Deviney is this year’s Seabee Days logo contest winner. The winning logo will be featured on flyers, posters, banners, Seabee Days T-shirts and the Seabee Days web page. As the winning contestant, Deviney received a \$300 gift certificate redeemable at the Pacific View Mall. EMC(SW) Evan Atanacio from Naval Construction Training Center, who was selected as the runner-up, will receive an MWR entertainment package. All entrants get a Seabee Days T-shirt.

Nineteen contestants, representing both the Navy and local community, entered the



From left to right, Capt. Jim Cowell, CBC commanding officer, Heather Deviney and CMDMC(SCW) Jerry Romero gather as Deviney is presented a \$300 gift certificate for her winning 2002 Seabee Days logo.

competition. “I want to thank everyone that entered the contest for their outstanding work. The response was amazing. It was a really tough choice for the committee, we had so many high quality, creative logos to select from,” said Capt. Jim Cowell, commanding officer, Naval Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme and commander, Thirty-First Naval Construction Regiment.

Deviney became interested in the contest after hearing about it from her husband, Lt. Jeff Deviney, an instructor at the Civil Engineer Corps Officer School.

Deviney said she had actually heard about Seabee Days while she and her family were stationed at Naval Air Station, Keflavik, Iceland. “I worked as the marketing director for MWR in Iceland, doing weekly indocs and design work - that’s my true passion,” she said. With a fairly large contingent of Seabees at the base, she was familiar with the ’Bees and had been involved with the station’s Seabee Ball. Of Seabee Days, Deviney said, “I heard it was the biggest base event of the year.”

“I had never seen another Seabee Days logo, and so I wanted to design a horizontal and vertical logo with a patriotic theme.” She did both horizontal and vertical versions of the logo, having the back and front of a T-shirt in mind.

Deviney’s winning logo of mainly red, white and blue, has bold clean lines with the famous fighting Seabee superimposed over the American flag giving it a patriotic feel. The vertical version follows the same design. Both logos will be used in publicizing Seabee Days. Deviney said, “It’s a real honor to be selected. It will feel good to see my logo everywhere and of course go to my first Seabee Days,” she added. The Devineys, stationed at Port Hueneme since the last fall, have two sons, Corbin, 2 ½, and 2-week-old Jared.

The Seabee Days logo contest is sponsored by the Navy Sponsorship Program. All 19 contestants’ logo entries will be featured in a display at the CEC/Seabee Museum on Seabee Days, July 27-28.



NAVSEA Port Hueneme cleans up with local community



Participants join forces for NAVSEA Port Hueneme’s Earth Day 2002 Community Clean up.

By Jeanne Schick

NAVSEA Public Affairs

NAVSEA Port Hueneme Surface Warfare Center Division recently partnered with several community organizations to host a community clean up in recognition of Earth Day. The theme this year was “One Nation, One Earth ... Let’s Protect them Together.” The clean up took place outside the entrance to Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), Port Hueneme base.

“We enjoy teaming up with NAVSEA Port Hueneme every year to help clean up our community. The kids are always very eager to work side by side with the Navy in honoring Earth Day,” said Danny Dujardin, Team Leader of the local City Corps.

The success of the event was due to the enthusiastic participation of civilians and military from NAVSEA Port Hueneme, as well as youth from the local City Corps, Boys and Girls Clubs, and NBVC Youth Center. The cleanup objective was to remove trash and debris from the surrounding neighborhoods and around the perimeter of the Navy base.

The community clean up participants disposed of cans, bottles, cigarette butts, wrappers, scraps of paper and a variety of other debris that littered the ground and plants. The combined forces worked together to help clean up the environment and to preserve the beauty of the area.

The local Beach Community Services District assisted with donations and in trash removal efforts for the event. They provided gloves, trash bags and soft drinks to all participants.

CECOS leads the way into National Volunteer Week

By Lt. R. A. Pyle

Civil Engineering Corps

The Naval School, Civil Engineer Corps Officers (CECOS) Basic Class #223 completed their initial 14-week pipeline training at the end of National Volunteer Week. But they didn't wait until the last week to step up to the plate to attack need, poverty and hopelessness. During their stay in Ventura County, 18 students donated more than 280 hours of community service to a variety of projects. Basic Class Volunteer Coordinator, Ensign Mike Vanderweide stated, "The toughest part of being the volunteer coordinator was matching a need in the community with our schedules and skills. We wanted to work on more than one project during our stay here, to show that we can do more for the local community than just being a source of additional traffic in the morning."

While several CECOS staff members provided basic

guidance and local points of contact to the coordinator, Vanderweide diligently beat the bushes for more opportunities that would fit their academic and professional development schedules. "We found that we wanted, and were better able to work on, a variety of small volunteer projects, especially in support of youth in the community." While on one Saturday, the Class did field 12 volunteers to support a Habitat for Humanity project, individual time and effort was the common goal for the students, with less than half of their total service hours dedicated to the Habitat project.

Seven volunteers augmented the Port Hueneme Library tutoring program four days a week, extending the program hours from 5 to 8 p.m. three days a week and one extra hour on Saturday. They also supplemented the staff at the

Port Hueneme Boys and Girls Club. Ensign Lisa Durham led this effort, and stated "Our participation in games and activities helped make their afternoons a little more structured and interesting." The students also spoke to the Port Hueneme High School JROTC Unit about ROTC, the Navy Civil Engineer Corps, and service in the Navy in general. In addition to their interactive projects, and working with the Society of American Military Engineers, the class assisted with the Math Counts Program by helping to administer and grade a series of tests for this yearly academic competition.

Vanderweide raised the bar to a higher standard



Official U.S. Navy photo

Ensign Steve Pylypiak tutoring at the Port Hueneme Library.



Official U.S. Navy photo

Basic Class #223 helps erect a wall after rough framing at a local Habitat for Humanity project.

for Basic Class # 224 arriving May 13. His final report on community service and volunteer activity detailed all of the work above, and suggested several more ideas for adult literacy and the Port Hueneme Sheriff's Department STARS mentoring program for troubled youth. By targeting specific programs in Ventura County, Basic Class # 223 not only made positive impacts on area youth, they also helped to promote service to our country through their service in our Navy.

Finally, said Vanderweide, "As volunteers, we benefited by gaining a better understanding of how our talents and time are needed in the community, and we gained a sense of responsibility to give back to the community for how fortunate we have been."

NMCB-40 boxer fares well at national competition

Story & photo by JO1 Greg Frazho

NMCB-40 Public Affairs

CAMP COVINGTON, Guam – Construimus, Battuimus is a Latin phrase, which literally means, "We build, we fight." It's the motto of the Seabees and it's something the entire Naval Construction Force takes very

seriously.

For SW2(SCW) Keith Spencer, it means something more. He is a squad leader in Fighting 40's air detachment, and fighting is his passion. Boxing, that is. He's been boxing for only a few years, but decided he was ready to compete in the U.S. National Championships, in Las Vegas, Nev.

The native of Newark, N.J. first became

interested in the sport growing up in the Garden State. "When I was young, there were older guys in my neighborhood who wouldn't let us fight without boxing gloves," said Spencer, who competes in the super heavyweight division. "I was well-disciplined. We went from the projects to a middle-class neighborhood." Upon graduating high school, Spencer elected to pursue a football scholarship at the University of Pittsburgh.

Despite maintaining a 3.6 grade point average, he lost the scholarship following some personal issues. "After my scholarship was gone at Pitt, I was in a rut. I told myself, 'You've got to do something'," said Spencer. "I thought about it for a while and decided to join the Navy and started off as an operations specialist (OS)."

The five-year Navy veteran did his first tour aboard *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19), the flagship for the Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet, homeported in Yokosuka, Japan. It was in Japan that Spencer renewed his interest in boxing.

"Kevin Palmer and Rocky Garza got me into boxing for the Navy," said Spencer. The former was the middleweight champion in Japan at the time. Also encouraging him was the then-commander of Seventh Fleet, Vice Adm. Robert Natter. "Admiral Natter stays

in touch with me," he said with a smile. "He's a big supporter of sports."

After completion of his tour aboard *Blue Ridge*, Spencer cross-rated to the steelworker rating, joining NMCB-40 two years ago. Battalion deployment and training schedules don't make preparing for bouts easy, but Spencer has gotten the job done both in and out of the ring. But he hasn't done it alone.

"I see people who do well," he said. "I try to emulate them. I call Master Chief [Christopher] Bissonnette my father. Master Chief [Thomas] Kinkle has been teaching me a lot, too. My coach, Jose Salas, I call him 'Poppy'. He's like another father."

Following recovery from an ankle injury earlier this year, Spencer as well as two other Navy boxers headed to Las Vegas to compete against the best amateurs in U.S. boxing. "It felt really good to fight at Caesar's Palace," he said. "It's the first time nationals have been held there."

Now that national competition is over, Spencer is ranked 8th in the nation, and has a legitimate shot at making the Olympic team for the 2004 Summer Games in Athens, Greece.

The secret to success, according to Spencer, is simple. "Always give back," he said. "I keep positive people in my circle. I just hope I keep going!"



SW2(SCW) Keith Spencer, left, representing the Navy, does battle with Diallo Lawson of Central Pacific, at the 2002 Men's USA National Championships in Las Vegas. Spencer won the fight in the fourth and final round, when he stopped his opponent.

Seabees make time for snowboarding in Japan

Story and Photos by Lt. Nick Yamodis

For NMCB-4 Public Affairs

SASEBO, Japan – Winter in Sasebo, on the island of Kyushu, located at the eastern end of the Japan Archipelago, is similar to winter on the East Coast of the United States above the Mason-Dixon Line. The cold weather here brings frequent snow flurries and driving cold wind.

These conditions are less than ideal for a Seabee detail's construction mission in Sasebo during the six-day workweek. However, when an off day comes, the wind-driven snow that stings a Seabee's fingers goes from being cursed at a cyclic rate of frustration to becoming wholeheartedly embraced. The change of heart comes because the snow in Kyushu is exceptional for snowboarding and provides a fun way to cut loose for the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Four's Detail Sasebo.

The Detail recently embarked upon a pilgrimage to a local ski resort. Immediately the crew faced a few of the differences found between the U.S. and Japan.

The roads in Japan are either very similar to four-lane freeways in the U.S. or conversely, a small bike path. As long as you travel on the expressway, vehicular movement is not a problem. However, the resort that the Seabees were heading to was marked on the map at the end of a very long squiggly line. As soon as they headed off the expressway ramp and paid the toll, the reality of the situation set in. On one side of the two-lane "bike path" was a drainage or "benjo" ditch about two feet deep with no grating or cover to prevent the lodging of a Seabee van. On the other side of the lane of oncoming traffic were mini trucks and vans zipping by with

their door side mirrors at the level of the Seabee full size van bumper. The officer-in-charge, sitting in the passenger seat of the van, was nervous to say the least. Each approaching car brought with it thoughts of explaining a vehicle mishap to the chain of command eight hundred miles away in Okinawa.

In addition to being extremely narrow, the road followed a course up the mountain that could have been laid out by a drunken fruit fly. It twisted and curved through hairpin after hairpin. After 43 nauseating miles to thirty five hundred feet above sea level, the Seabee team arrived at Tenzan Mountain Resort.

The resort provided lift tickets, snowboards, helmets and single-piece unisuits. The gear was in great shape, but the fluorescent colors of the unisuits left something to be desired. The suits were sized to fit a slightly shorter than average height and a less than full build compared to a standard American. As the suits were handed out and donned, everyone commented on their feeling like a "total fool." The only saving grace was that everyone was wearing them so no one had the upper hand in poking fun at their fellow Seabees.

The group then headed out of the lodge and proceeded to shred the slopes. For some of the 'Bees, it was their first time in the snow. They didn't let that slow them down though, so within a few hours and after a few pointers, everyone was having a great time. The highlights of the trip included: the construction of a jump ramp; a Seabee plowing straight into a rock wall and then snowboarding away unscathed after



CECN Dray Grantham performs a "half-pipe slide" at the Tenzan Mountain Resort.

gathering his wits; a Seabee bowling through a Japanese woman who then asked for his phone number for an invitation to her family home; watching a Construction Electrician discover that rail sliding on a steel pipe is better left to the Utility Technicians; and watching the Officer-In-Charge crash time and again from the jump.

The group then returned to their home base of Commander Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan late in the evening with smiles on their faces and a greater appreciation for both the similarities and differences of the U.S. and Japan.

NMCB-40 detachment departs for Cobra Gold

By JO1 Greg Frazho

NMCB 40 Public Affairs

CAMP COVINGTON, Guam—Now more than ever, global interdependence is a fact of life. For years, the United States military has participated in Pacific Rim exercises like Tandem Thrust, Foal Eagle, Valiant Usher and Cobra Gold. This is where some of the world's nations combine their collective might to conduct training, allowing the United States and its allies to counter prospective threats in the Asian Pacific region.

In Southeast Asia, the military forces of

Thailand, Singapore and the United States are about to step off on a big exercise. How big? It will include 14,000 American troops, 7,000 Thai troops and 80 service members from Singapore. The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Forty will be participating this year and they are raring to go.

“NMCB 40's Det is part of the Combined Civil Military Operations Task Force. Our mission is to conduct engineering civic action projects,” said Lt. Ana Franco, detachment officer-in-charge. “We're building an 11-by-24 meter concrete building at the Wat Samnakaton School. It's an elementary school,

and this building will be used as a library.”

The Seabees of Det Cobra Gold will also have neighbors: United States Marines, specifically. They too will be working on a construction project in tandem with the Seabees and about 30 Thai soldiers. “Adjacent to the library, there will be a multi-purpose building for athletic and religious events,” said Franco. “We're working alongside them.”

The Marines are members of the 9th Engineering Support Battalion. However, working with the Thai nationals won't be easy. “We're getting an interpreter,” said Franco. “We're contracting with some civilians, but it's been difficult.”

Also at issue will be the temperatures in Thailand. Although the exercise will require the Seabees to be in country for only a month, Franco is expecting the thermometer to hit the 90s and 100s. Since the detachment is located three hours south of Bangkok, hydration will be critical.

“We'll be living inside the classrooms,” she said. “There is no air conditioning, and we'll be eating meals ready to eat (MREs) and unitized group rations (UGRs).” Although living and working conditions will be Spartan, the detachment's enthusiasm is palpable. Franco simply said, “We're absolutely ready to go!”

Seabees experience late night 7.2 earthquake

By PH3 Lamel J. Hinton

For NMCB-40 Public Affairs

CAMP COVINGTON, Guam—At 2 a.m., April 27, the island of Guam experienced a 7.2 magnitude earthquake which lasted a few minutes. For some who had never been it an earthquake, it probably felt like an eternity. For NMCB-40, it just meant no one would be late for morning PT.

Overall, nobody panicked, but a few were scared, like HN Amanda Jones, who just happened to be on duty at the camp's medical clinic that night. This was her first earthquake and she was very glad that her supervisors immediately arrived on scene to check on her and the status of the medical department.

“At first I didn't know it was an earthquake,” said Jones, a

native of Docla, Ga., “but when I realized what was happening I was scared. The power went out and pieces of the ceiling came down. All I could do was lay in bed and ride the quake out.”

Some members of NMCB-40's galley were also shaken up by the quake. Alfa company's EOCN Joseph Brown of Monterey, Calif., was surprised when he heard the magnitude of the quake was 7.2. “Even with the power being out, the mess hall has its own generator so it wasn't difficult to prepare breakfast for the battalion. People still have to eat.”

UTCN Chris Chapman, a member of the air detachment, thought that his roommate was joking around with him by shaking his bed. “I was more worried about how I was going to wake up in the morning because the power went out and my alarm clock was no longer working. But I didn't panic,” said the native of Twin Falls, Idaho.

The personnel at Fighting 40's Information Systems Department were quick to react after power was lost in their office. IT2(SW) Christina Grey of Pequannock, N.J., immediately turned the server switches off before the generators were able to power back up. By doing that, she avoided a power surge that might have overloaded the system.

“We lost a monitor in Personnel and had some equipment damage at Medical,” said BU1(SCW) Dave Downes, ISD leading petty officer. “I've been in a few earthquakes and I was still scared with this one. I didn't feel like I was going to die, but I did want out of the building.”

Though Camp Covington sustained no major damage, many of the structures and systems here are being assessed anyway. As for the Seabees of NMCB-40, it's back to do what they do best ... building and fighting.

NAVSEA team working to improve technical support to fleet

By JOC David Nagle

Naval Sea Systems Command Public Affairs

Distance support is becoming more and more important as the Navy moves into 21st century technology.

The Naval Sea Systems Command team is currently building on existing resources and technology to improve how the distance support program supports Sailors at sea.

The Distance Support Program was established in August 1999 through a collaborative effort between Naval Sea Systems Command, the Navy's other systems commands, and the fleet Commanders-in-Chief, with the goal of reducing shipboard workload and streamlining support infrastructure access, allowing the Sailor to focus on their primary mission to train, operate and fight.

Distance support includes the Navy Integrated Call Center (NICC), an around-the-clock toll free phone number, providing Sailors with one touch support for technical and logistics questions, and the Anchor Desk, (www.anchordesk.navy.mil), a web-based initiative providing on-line technical support via the Internet and e-mail.

Naval Sea Systems Command is developing the next

evolution in distance support to the fleet with Distance Support Next Generation – Advanced Technical Information Support (DSNG-A). DSNG-A will support ships at sea by providing technical support material on a special server within a ship's local area network. This will provide the ship's crew fast and easily accessible material while reducing Internet connectivity.

DSNG-A is currently being tested aboard the forward-deployed minesweeper USS *Guardian* (MCM 5). In addition to evaluating DSNG-A's effectiveness, *Guardian's* crew is testing whether existing technology can support the program.

DSNG-A material aboard *Guardian* includes technical manuals, drawings, equipment-specific training material, predicted failure data and MCM-class advisories. *Guardian's* DSNG-A also contains a complete copy of the current Distance Support Portal, enhanced with Sailor-to-Engineer data and Navy-developed eLearning courseware demonstrations. DSNG-A also interfaces with *Guardian's* Portable Maintenance Assistant (PocketPMA)- handheld, portable computers designed to reduce maintenance paperwork and workloads.

The latest collaborative tool in the Distance Support inventory is the AN/PSM-99 Remote Technical Assistance Support System (RTASS), developed and being implemented

through a partnership between the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Keyport Division and AEPTEC Microsystems, Inc. in Rockville, Md.

RTASS will enable Sailors to link their desktop computers to the failed equipment undergoing maintenance. Using technology such as shoulder-mounted cameras and voice/keypad communications, RTASS will allow Sailors to obtain real-time, over-the shoulder technical support from afloat and ashore facilities.

In addition to ship maintenance, RTASS can be used in other distance support applications, including tele-medicine and tele-training.

RTASS will use bandwidth compression to ensure the smooth flow of communication, whether text, audio or video. Additionally, the RTASS team is working with engineers at the Navy's Space and Warfare Center to ensure the tool meets information security requirements before rollout to the fleet.

RTASS and DSNG-A are examples of how the NAVSEA team and the Distance Support program are looking to the future to improve the fleet's warfighting readiness, increase battle group self-sufficiency, reduce shipboard workload, equipment downtime and technical support costs, while improving quality of life for Sailors.

New VAW-116 CO readies for tomorrow's challenges

By VAW-116 Public Affairs

POINT MUGU, Calif. – Recently, Cmdr. R.A. “The Colonel” Rall passed the reins of the Sun Kings over to the new Skipper, Cmdr. Kevin “Zippy” Andersen. The ceremony took place in Hanger 553 with the squadron formed in dress blues.

King 600 and *King 601*, two of the squadron’s recently shined and polished E-2C Hawkeyes, flanked the formation, and maroon and gold VAW-116 combat banners served as a backdrop and reminder of proven readiness over the years. Front and center stood “The King” (a.k.a Lt. Tom Hall in full Elvis Presley regalia) representing the heart and soul of the

Sun Kings. In his hands was a maroon surfboard brilliantly emblazoned with the Sun Kings logo; a gift from the ready room to their departing skipper. The stage was set and the air was filled with nostalgia, excitement, and pride as the past, present and future leaders of VAW-116 entered the hanger bay.

After an impressive parading of the colors by the Naval Base Ventura County Color Guard, a stirring rendition of the National Anthem by the 562nd Air Force Band, and a solemn but hopeful invocation by the chaplain, Rall introduced the guest speaker, Capt. Mark Fox, Commander Carrier Air Wing Two. An accomplished naval aviator with over 4,200 mishap-free flight hours and numerous accolades including the Silver Star, Fox is a man of great integrity and honor who’s presence and words were greatly appreciated.

Following Fox’s speech, Rall gave his last words as “Sun King One.” He spoke of the Hawkeye, and the men and women who build, maintain, and fly them. He stressed that it is built from scratch by artisans who pour their heart and soul into each aircraft. He proudly stated that the aircraft was maintained with the same heart and soul, and certainly the same sweat and determination, in VAW-116. He commended the troops for their spirit, integrity and honor. He then thanked all of the people that helped him through the “trials and tribulations of naval aviation,” with special thanks to his wife, Liz, and son, Charlie. Rall’s next assignment is to Air Operations with Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group Three.

With the changing of the guard completed,



Cmdr. Kevin R. Andersen reports to Capt. Mark I. Fox, commander Carrier Air Wing Two, for duty as the newest commanding officer of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron One One Six.



Photos by PH3 Brian L. Bynem

Capt. Mark I. Fox presents Cmdr. R. A. Rall with a Meritorious Service Medal for his performance as the 29th commanding officer of VAW-116.

Andersen stood up for the first time as skipper and addressed his command with the words “Now, this is pretty cool.”

He then thanked the band, color guard, chaplain and all of the special people who have helped him throughout his career, especially his wife, Katherine, and children, Robert, Kristen, and Kaitlin.

The words and message from the enthusiastic new skipper were simple. He echoed the words of Theodore Roosevelt in ‘The Man in the Arena’ making it clear that the time for VAW-116 to get back into the arena is quickly approaching and expressing confidence that, as always, the Sun Kings will be ready. Feelings of confidence, readiness and pride were felt throughout the squadron, from the new skipper to the youngest Sailor.

NMCB-4 Seabees celebrate half-way point

Story by BUC (SCW) Richard Sargent

For NMCB-4 Public Affairs

CAMP SHIELDS, Okinawa—It's that time of the deployment for the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Four. They recently had their "over the hump" party, signifying that the battalion was now on the second half of their deployment to Okinawa. The weather had been a concern but with the exception of a sprinkle in the morning hours, it turned out to be a nice day.

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) started working early in the morning to set up the food line, dining area, and was serving meals at 10 a.m. sharp. Jousting and an obstacle course were also provided throughout the day as people felt the urge to challenge each other.

The favorite of each "over the hump" party, volleyball, began at 11:30 a.m. Camp Maintenance spent a couple hours the day before dressing up the two courts for the tournament. The

game was played four on four and there was no shortage of teams for the competition. Everyone seemed to enjoy a friendly game and enjoy it they did. Even after the matches were over people continued to play well into the night. SWC(SCW) Manuel Manipon of Charlie Company organized the tournament and spent the day as an official, although he did manage to squeeze in some playtime himself.

Next to the volleyball courts were the horseshoe pits and another tournaments taking place. This tournament lasted the longest as two-man teams played for the championship. The games lasted until sun set and everyone was pleased with the organization of this double elimination play. Thanks goes out to HM1(SCW/SW/FMF) Richard Schloendorn for his hard work in setting up and keeping the action going.

The major athletic competition was the championship softball game between Headquarters (HQ) and Alfa Companies. The competition was tough and it wasn't until the last part of the game that HQ was able to take the lead and win the game 14 - 9. Congratulations go out to both teams for their strong season and a great final game. With the completion of this game, it was time for other team events and festivities to begin.

Hands down, the most interesting events had to be the pie throwing event hosted by ET3(SCW) Nancy Smith and



JO1 Rich Henson

Lt. Cmdr. Mark Jones, NMCB FOUR's Supply Officer, shakes a cream pie from the side of his face during the Pie Throwing Contest

the cruise book committee. The event was held to help lower the costs of this year's cruise book. Although not a sport, it did take skill to deliver the contents of the pie pan to the face of the victim ... uh, volunteer that is. The original throw line was moved up until the participants could land their ammunition with consistent success. It must also be mentioned that this year and last year, the first class petty officers were able to successfully defeat all other competitors in the tug of war competition.

For all of the participants and those who volunteered their time and effort to make this deployment's "over the hump" party an unqualified success, we extend a hearty thanks and a job well done.



PH2(AW) Chris Perkins

CE1 Chris Chisholm sends a horseshoe down the horseshoe pit.

Reservists returning home from Guam

By NMCB-5
Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Five Reserve Augment Unit, Detachment Guam, Advance Party is finally returning home to their families this month, six months after being deployed to the Far East where they worked with NMCB-5, and 133. According to NMCB-5 Operations Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Stanley Wiles, the detachment left Guam in two waves, the first group of 46 personnel left April 8 and 9. The remainder of Detachment Guam has not been officially scheduled to leave Camp Covington, but officials within the Seabee community expect them to arrive home within the next few months.

The Seabees, activated as part of Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom, arrived in Okinawa on Oct. 20. Detachment Guam was comprised of the activated U.S. Naval Reserve troops from the Southwest Region of the United States. They supplemented NMCB-5 at their main body site at Camp Shields, Okinawa, Japan, as well as Detachment sites including Sasebo, Atsugi, Iwakuni and Everett, Wash. In December they were redeployed to Camp Covington, Guam to assist NMCB-133 where they came to be known as NMCB-5's "Detachment Guam." Steadfast throughout their six-month deployment, the Seabees assisted two different Seabee battalions on mission-critical projects throughout the Far East. NMCB-5's Det. Guam personnel integrated well into NMCB-133's daily routine, helped them on numerous projects, participated in their military training, and even celebrated traditional deployed unit milestones such as their "over the hump" party.

After six months of rigorous contingency support for two different Seabee battalions, NMCB 5's Det. Guam finally gets to enjoy the Seabee's most time-honored tradition, they get to come home after a job well done.



Official U.S. Navy photo

EO1 Douglas Berry, NMCB-5 Det Guam, works on a piece of CESE at the Polaris project at Commander Naval Forces Marianas.



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Prior to each deployment, each service member should make sure that they fill out a Navy Relief Pre-authorization form through their command or through Navy Relief. This ensures that in case of an emergency their spouse and dependents are eligible to receive full support from the NMCRS. A general or special Power-of-Attorney (POA) can also be used to receive assistance as long as it allows the dependent to borrow money.

You say that things got a little too hectic before deployment and the service member just never got around to filling them out? Well don't despair! Navy Relief can still offer some assistance. Just make an appointment and come talk to us. 982-4409.

Budget for Baby Class. – May 14 and June 11 at Port Hueneme from 6-8 pm. and at Point Mugu 9-11 am. Call for registration 982-4409.

Crochet Wednesday – May 15 and June 5 and 19 from 9-12 noon. Held at the "Bee Hive" by Bard Mansion.

Thrift Shop – Opened each Mon. and Wed. from 10am - 2pm. Located in bldg. 829 behind NCTC (the white house) on 15th Ave.

Volunteer Orientation – May 9 and June 13 at NMCRS office. Call to volunteer or for more information. 982-4409.

NMCB-3 Seabee speaks at Westlake Rotary Club

By NMCB-3 Public Affairs

The Seabees play an important role in almost all U.S. military operations. The current war on terrorism is no different. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Three was fortunate enough to be one of the battalions called in support of the war.

Sometimes the role that Seabees play in these operations isn't always clear to the local community. Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Schulman of NMCB-3 was recently invited to speak at the Westlake Rotary Club to help clear up the question, "What are the Seabees doing for the war on terrorism?"

The simple answer is construction work, but that just scratches the surface of a complete answer. The Seabees augmented the security forces at the various locations they deployed to around the world. They rapidly upgraded the security posture of those military installations by improving fences, making concrete barriers (like those used in serpentine), and using their Civil Engineer Support Equipment (CESE) to block entrances to military bases.

This isn't to say they didn't provide construction support. Within hours of receiving the call, NMCB-133 had an Air Detachment mounting out to provide construction support in Afghanistan. The detachment continually repaired a dirt runway that supported heavy aircraft coming in and out of the area.

NMCB-3 had a Detachment working in Guantanamo Bay Cuba (GTMO) when the call came in that GTMO would be home to suspected terrorists. NMCB-3 quickly doubled the size of the Detachment and began work on over 100 confinement cells, two hospitals, and berthing for the massive security force. NMCB-133 worked right alongside them, who sent an equally large Detachment.

When the battalion returned to Port Hueneme in March, NMCB-7 continued the work alongside NMCB-133. The combined efforts of all the battalions involved show everyone that indeed, we are one Naval Construction Force. Thanks to Schulman, the Westlake Rotary Club now has a better understanding of what Seabees do.

SCAMS, from Page 2

download from the DANTES web site, and are available free to any service member. DSST (DANTES Subject Standardized Tests) and ECE (Excelsior College Exams) study materials are available to anyone on the DANTES web site at <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/exam/index.htm>.

Good commercial study guides such as Barons, Barnes and Noble and Arco are also available at the base and local libraries and can be purchased for approximately \$12 at bookstores. When a military member has been induced by fraud or mistake to enter into a contract, that party may have the contract set aside and seek restitution of those benefits lost by the transaction. Service members should see their base education counselor at the Navy College Office, 989-8362 or financial advisor before signing anything. If they feel they have been misled into signing a fraudulent contract, they should contact their base legal office.

Remember, if the offer from a company sounds too good to be true, it usually is!



Shining Sailors...



PH3 Brian L. Bynem
PNCS (SW) Jorge Mercado receives a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal at his recent retirement from Lt. Sheila Noles, OIC of PERSUPP DET, Port Hueneme.



PH2 (AW) Chris Perkins
NMCB-4 Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Steve Wirsching (left) awards NMCB-4 Executive Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Rick Burgess the Seabee Combat Warfare Officer insignia.



PH2 (AW) Chris Perkins
Cmdr. Steve Wirsching awards the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal to CE3 Danae Hernandez.



PH3 Brian L. Bynem
YNC (SW) Carl H. Urich was recently reenlisted for two more years by Lt. Cmdr. Linda Routson, NBVC Admin Officer, going above and beyond the call of twenty years.



PH2 (AW) Chris Perkins
NMCB-4 Executive Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Rick Burgess (left) presents the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal to EO1 (SCW) Ronald Tomlinson.

For submissions of military awards to this page of your command or department's shining Sailors, contact PH3 Brian L. Bynem at NBVC Public Affairs.

e-mail: bynembl@nbvc.navy.mil

Phone: (805) 989-9266

Please send photos or high resolution, 300 dpi, .jpeg digital images with a full caption of all persons appearing in the photo including first names and ranks, the award description, and the photographer's name for recognition.

What's At The Movies

Playing

Port Hueneme

Thurs., May 9	7 p.m. Sorority Boys
Fri., May 10	7 p.m. Ice Age 9 p.m. Blade 2
Sat., May 11	2 p.m. Ice Age 7 p.m. Death to Smoochy 9 p.m. Monsters Ball
Sun., May 12	7 p.m. The Rookie
Thurs., May 16	7 p.m. Monsters Ball
Fri., May 17	7 p.m. Death to Smoochy 9 p.m. Sorority Boys
Sat., May 18	2 p.m. The Rookie 7 p.m. Panic Room 9 p.m. The Sweetest Thing
Sun., May 19	7 p.m. Clockstoppers

Point Mugu

Fri., May 10	7 p.m. Snow Dogs 9 p.m. Black Hawk Down
Sat., May 11	7 p.m. Vanilla Sky 9 p.m. The Mothman Prophecies
Sun., May 12	2 p.m. Atlantis: The Lost Empire
Fri., May 17	7 p.m. Orange County 9 p.m. Vanilla Sky
Sat., May 18	7 p.m. The Majestic 9 p.m. Collateral Damage
Sun., May 19	2 p.m. Monsters Inc.

Sorority Boys (R), Starring Harland Williams and Michael Rosenbaum. A trio of college boys pose as women for the low-cost housing at a sorority.

Blade II (R), Starring Wesley Snipes and Ron Perlman. The vampire killer Blade teams up with a band of vampires to battle a new breed of ghoulish mutant.

Ice Age (G), Starring Ray Romano and John Leguizamo. A mammoth and a sloth find a human infant and are forced to rely on the help of a saber-tooth tiger to return the baby to its tribe.

Death to Smoochy (R), Starring Edward Norton and Robin Williams. A disgraced Bozo the Clown-like TV personality targets his replacement, a purple Barney wannabe, for vengeance.

The Rookie (G), Starring Dennis Quaid and Rachel Griffiths. A man's journey from high school teacher to 35-year-old rookie pitcher for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Monster's Ball (R), Starring Billy Bob Thornton and Halle Berry. A racist death-row prison guard falls in love with the African-American widow of an inmate he's just helped execute.

Panic Room (R), Starring Jodie Foster and Forest Whitaker. A single mother purchases a New York home which features a high-security secret room. When burglars break into the home, she and her child retreat to the space only to realize that what the robbers are searching for is inside.

Clockstoppers (PG), Starring Jesse Bradford and Paula Garcés. The son of an eccentric scientist starts wreaking mischief after he swipes his father's time-halting invention.

The Sweetest Thing (R), Starring Cameron Diaz and Christina Applegate. A jaded party girl, after years of one-night stands and wild club nights, is at loss for how to forge a meaningful relationship with the man of her dreams.

Snow Dogs (PG), Starring Cuba Gooding Jr. and James Coburn. A Miami dentist learns of his adoption when his biological mother dies and leaves him a team of Alaskan sled dogs.

Black Hawk Down (R), Starring Josh Hartnett and Ewan McGregor. On October 3, 1993, a group of U.S. Army Rangers set off for a 90-minute mission to capture a Somali warlord and spend the next 17 hours in one of the fiercest firefights in military history.

Vanilla Sky (R), Starring Tom Cruise and Penelope Cruz. A magazine editor, after a horrible car accident, becomes caught between two realities. One life where he's horribly disfigured and another where he's made a full recovery and fallen in love.

The Mothman Prophecies (PG-13), Starring Richard Gere and Laura Linney. Based on actual events about a journalist who, following a personal tragedy, becomes involved in a series of bizarre phenomena in rural West Virginia.

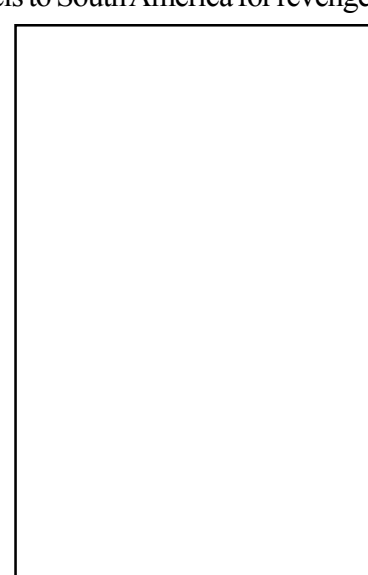
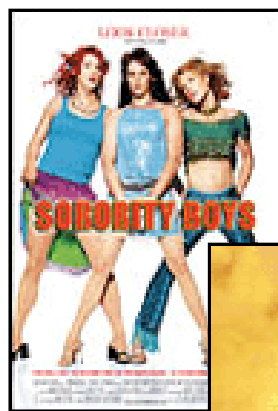
Atlantis: The Lost Empire (PG), Starring Michael J. Fox and James Garner. An early 20th-century archaeologist guides a team of military commandos on a search for the famed lost city.

Orange County (R), Starring Colin Hanks and Jack Black. A suburban Southern California high-school teenager whose well-laid plans to get into Stanford are suddenly derailed, leaves him just 24 hours to figure out his future.

The Majestic (PG), Starring Jim Carrey and Martin Landau. A blacklisted screenwriter wanders into a small town after losing his memory in a car accident where he's mistaken for a killed-in-action World War II hero.

Monsters, Inc. (G), Starring John Goodman and Billy Crystal. Monsters from an alternate dimension scare children in order to harness the energy from their screams. Chaos ensues when a child turns up at the monsters' headquarters, since they're deathly afraid of kids.

Collateral Damage (R), Starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and John Leguizamo. When his family is killed in an attack by Colombia-based terrorists, a firefighter travels to South America for revenge.



NMCRS awards volunteers



Michelle Blanton has volunteered 300 hours to NMCRS, seen here being recognized by Capt. Jim Cowell, commanding officer, Naval Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme.

PORT HUENEME, Calif. – Recently the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society held a luncheon at Quarters B here, to recognize individual volunteers and organizations who donate their time and support to NMCRS. Capt. Jim Cowell, commanding officer, Naval Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, was in



Sherry Orians receives a 100-hour volunteer appreciation award from Capt. Cowell.

attendance to give out the awards to the honored volunteers. The East Ventura Lion's Club and Oxnard FOE 232 Auxiliary received awards for over 1,500 hours of crochet work for the NMCRS Baby blankets.

The following volunteers were given awards for volunteering 100 hours: Amy Cappelmann, Nadine Gamble, Sherry Orians, David Swanson, Heidi France.

For volunteering 300 hours: Michelle Blanton, Gia Micklewright, Cindy Saunders, Sue Ellen Joyce.

For volunteering 500 hours: Shirley Ormanoski.

The 38 volunteers in attendance

volunteer in a variety of ways for NMCRS; at the Thrift Shop, crocheting for the layettes, caseworking and reception in the main office. One volunteer, Joe Sylvester, has logged over 7,000 hours in the past several years at the Thrift Shop.

NMCRS is always looking for volunteers who are interested in offering their time to help support our military families in need. If you are interested in sharing some of your time and talents, call 982-4409.



Amy Cappelmann receives an appreciation award for volunteering 100 hours to NMCRS.



Straight from NMCRS

Food Locker

Have you ever been in that tight pinch, right before pay day, when the money and the food seem to run out a little too soon? Well, Navy Relief can help.

Navy Relief operates a Food Locker that can help tide you over till the next pay day. They offer bags of non-perishable food that are nutritional and well balanced meals. Each set of bags will feed a family of four for a couple of days. The bags come complete with an itemized list of contents and recommended menu for each meal, each day. Baby formula and diapers, of all sizes, are also available for those who need them. All Sailors, Marines and their families are eligible and will need to make an appointment with NMCRS to receive them.

Navy Relief generally does not accept donations of food to go into the food locker but will happily accept donations of unopened diapers. Call 982-4409 for more information.

NBVC set to celebrate Asian-Pacific heritage

By Chief of Naval Personnel

Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON (NNS) "Unity in Freedom" is the theme for the 23rd observance of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month of May. Since 1979, May has been proclaimed by the president as the month to celebrate the contributions and achievements of Asian-Pacific Americans.

Naval Base Ventura County will celebrate observance for Asian Pacific Heritage month on May 23 from 11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. at Bolles Field, Port Hueneme. There will be entertainment and lunch for a low cost of \$6.50 per ticket. You can purchase tickets through any Asian Pacific Heritage Committee member. A list of the members will be provided soon. The guest speaker this year will be Glenn Omatsu, professor/lec-

turer from California State University, Northridge, Ca.

More than 11 million Americans of Asian Pacific heritage (4.1 percent of the American population) are helping to build our nation today. Many ethnic groups are part of the category Asian-Pacific American including those from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, India, Japan, Korea, Laos, Micronesia, Philippines, Polynesia, Thailand, Vietnam and many other Asian and Pacific lands.

Four Asian-Pacific American flag officers have served in the Navy: Vice Adm. Robert Kihune, Rear Adm. Ming Chang, Rear Adm. Gordon Chung-Hoon, and Rear Adm. Eleanor Mariano.

Nearly 22,000 Asian Pacific Americans are serving in today's Navy in the enlisted ranks and over 2,100 serve as officers. Almost 8.4 percent of today's master chiefs are Asian Pacific Americans. Of these master chiefs, 94 percent are Filipino Americans. This is the second largest minority repre-

sentation after African Americans.

The 2000 recipient of the Federal Asian Pacific American Council's Meritorious Service Award was the highest ranking U.S. Filipino American naval officer currently on active duty, Capt. Jose R. Corpus.

"My thinking has always been that success in the military is color blind," Corpus said. "My life in the U.S. Navy has seen the encouragement of multiple cultures, the reflection of America itself and the fact that as you look at the Navy today, you see the faces of many Asians."

The Navy will celebrate Asian-Pacific American Heritage month through programs, exhibits, publications and participation in military and community events recognizing the diversity of America's diverse heritage.

For more information on cultural heritage months, go to <http://www.bupers.navy.mil/mentor>.

1,700 chiefs add star to anchor: 100 more than FY02

By Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Sustained superior performance at sea as a leading chief petty officer and involvement in the Sailorization process were the key reasons 1,700 chiefs will receive stars on their anchors as the Fleet's best picks for senior chief.

This year's 12,503 candidates had an advancement opportunity of 13.6 percent, one full percentage point higher than last year, and, there were 100 more quotas for fiscal year 2003 over FY 02.

Clear and concise fitness reports and steady sea to shore rotation contributed to the selection process. Those selected had documented command-wide ranking, high recommendations from their reporting seniors, and have served in some of the toughest jobs.

"Once again, proven performance at sea and in challenging leadership assignments carried the day," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr. "I was encouraged to

see the board reward the Sailorization culture by recognizing performance in the tough jobs, especially recruiter, recruit division commander and instructor."

Demonstrating that the Sailorization mission is essential and those with successful backgrounds in these challenging assignments are rewarded with advancement opportunity. Fourteen percent of this year's selectees had instructor duty experience, more than 15 percent have been recruiters, and nearly 20 percent of those with recruit division commander experience have been selected for promotion to senior chief petty officer.

Warfare qualifications continue to be a strong promotion factor, with 83 percent of those selected having qualified in at least one warfare area.

"The number of highly-skilled chiefs who are fleetling up to the elite community of senior chiefs is a vision of the strength of our enlisted force," said Ryan. "The board chose a strong skill mix of at-sea leading chiefs and those who have worked in Sailorization. This is precisely the leadership and depth of experience and we need as we chart our course into the future."

Navy College offers three new college resources to further education for Sailors everywhere

By JO3 Catrina Cardenaz

Chief of Naval Education and Training Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) — The Navy College Program (NCP) has added three new partnerships with colleges and universities to offer more rating-related degrees via distance learning, making earning a degree easier for Sailors everywhere.

The three new Navy College Rating Partners are: Southern New Hampshire University, Excelsior University, and Central Texas College. Partner colleges offer courses in a variety of formats, such as CD-ROM, videotape, and traditional correspondence courses over the Internet.

"We must have a commitment to education and learning that will give our Sailors the tools and opportunities to excel personally and professionally," said Vice Adm. Alfred G. Harms Jr., Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET). These new education partnerships provide associate and bachelor degree programs related to every Navy rating and make maximum use of military professional training and experience to fulfill degree requirements. The program also provides opportunities to take courses through distance learning so that Sailors any-

where will be able to pursue a degree.

Sailors will have the option to pursue the degree of their choice. Some may want to pursue a rating-related program as the quickest route to a degree, while others may choose to pursue other degrees within the Liberal Arts or Sciences. The NCP supports both options.

"In the future, we hope to grow the Distance Learning Partnership to areas of expertise that are not related to specific ratings," said Cmdr. Brian Looney, director, Education Programs Division. "For example, the 9502 Navy Enlisted Classifications and the Master Training Specialist qualification both carry American Council on Education recommended credit. We are going to look for schools that can leverage those skills toward a degree that earns our Sailors teaching credentials."

Some examples of distance-learning rating-related degrees that will be offered through these partnerships are an associate of science and a bachelor of science in professional aeronautics for all aviation ratings. In addition, a B.S. in general engineering technology for 22 aviation and surface submarine ratings is available, as well as an

associate of arts with specialization in photography for the Photographer's Mate rating.

The NCP focuses on helping Sailors obtain a college degree while in the Navy, when they are ready, and at their own pace. Since it was launched in October 1999, the NCP web site has logged more than 1.5 million hits," said Barry Nelson, director of the Navy College Center (NCC) at Saufley Field, Fla.

One of the most requested items supplied by the NCP is the Sailor/Marine Corps American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART). The SMART is a computer-generated transcript that documents the recommended college credits a Sailor earns for military training and work experience.

"Sailors can also submit official copies of their SMART to academic institutions of their choice. Every Sailor graduating from recruit training and evaluated military courses are given a summary of SMART," said Nelson. As of April, NCC representatives have responded to more than 1 million requests for SMART."

To find out about education opportunities visit the nearest Navy College Office or the NCP web site at <http://www.navycollege.navy.mil>. You can also e-mail the NCC at ncc@cnet.navy.mil or call the toll free number, 1-877-253-7122, or (DSN) 922-1828.

For more news about Navy education and training, go to CNET NewsStand page at <http://www.news.navy.mil/local/cnet>.



Navy announces DDX downselect decision

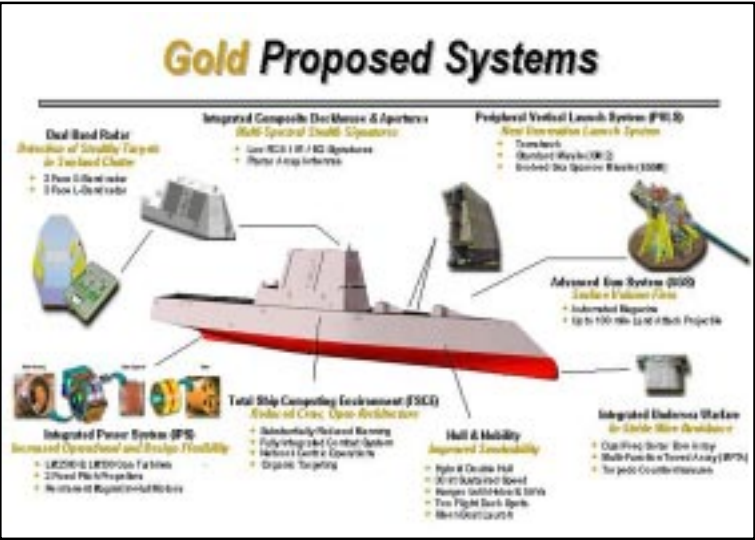
WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy announced April 29 that Ingalls Shipbuilding Inc., Northrop Grumman Ship Systems (NGSS) has been selected as the lead design agent for the DDX ship program.

This includes the award of a cost-plus award-fee contract in the amount of nearly \$2.9 billion for design agent activities such as the systems design of the DDX destroyer, and the design, construction and test of its major subsystems. NGSS was the leader of a team of contractors called the “Gold Team” that included Raytheon Systems Co. as the combat systems integrator, and a number of other companies.

Gold Team’s proposal also incorporated “Blue Team” member Bath Iron Works (BIW) as a subcontractor to perform DDX design and test activities, which will ensure BIW will have the ability to produce a detailed DDX design and build these ships in the future.

The award of the DDX Design Agent contract signals the start of a revolution for the Navy’s surface combatant fleet, with the development of transformational technologies that will create new capabilities while reducing crew size and yielding significant combat advantage. DDX is the foundation of a family of surface combatants, including a future cruiser, CGX, and littoral combat ship (LCS), providing the nation with a balanced set of war-fighting capabilities to meet the national security requirements in the 21st Century.

“The award of the DDX Design Agent contract marks the beginning of a new family of surface combatants,” said Edward C. “Pete” Aldridge Jr., Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. “This program and



its spiral development approach will be the model for Navy acquisition in the years to come. DDX is the Joint Strike Fighter equivalent for shipbuilding.”

The DDX program will provide a baseline for spiral development of the DDX and the future cruiser or CGX with emphasis on common hull-form and technology development. Advanced combat system technology and networking capabilities from DDX and CGX will be leveraged in the spiral development of the littoral combat ship to produce a survivable, capable near-land platform for the 21st century. The intent is to innovatively combine the transformational technologies developed in the DDX program with the many ongoing R&D efforts involving mission focused surface ships to produce a state-of-the art surface combatant to defeat adversary attempts to deny access for U.S. forces.

Armed Forces recognized with National Defense Medal

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Department of Defense announced May 1 that servicemembers on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible to receive the National Defense Service Medal.

“The sacrifices and contributions made by the Armed Forces in direct response to the terrorism attacks on the United States and to the long-term resolution of terrorism merit special recognition,” said Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

The National Defense Service Medal may also be awarded to members of the Reserve components who are ordered to federal active duty, regardless of duration, except for certain categories.

While no closing date has been established, eligible servicemembers can receive the award immediately.

The National Defense Service Medal was first established by President Eisenhower in 1953, and was subsequently awarded for honorable active service for any period between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954, between Jan. 1, 1961 and Aug. 14, 1974, and between Aug. 2, 1990 and Nov. 30, 1995.

“DDX and its associated transformational technologies will be at the core of U.S. Navy capabilities and missions for the 21st Century,” said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark. “These great ships and other members of the family of surface combatants will transform the Navy fleet, multiply our combat effectiveness, and play a crucial role in dominating the future battle space.”



Supporting children in sports

By Monica Walters

FFSC

Just who is this for, anyway?

A couple of years ago I took a vow of silence. The moment came on a Saturday morning as I watched my daughter playing softball. That morning I saw a mother demand that her daughter leave her team huddle so that she could stand in front of the stands and be berated for not trying harder. Another mom made loud and disparaging remarks to her daughter for striking out. Yet another girl was in tears after her father yelled for her to "move her behind" as she tried to outrun a ball to first base. More than one girl was in tears that day, not only because they got soundly beaten by a team that was far superior, but because they were yelled at, insulted, and criticized by their own parents. As I sat there, I tried to recall any time that I may have behaved similarly. I couldn't think of any but I felt ashamed all the same. Ashamed of myself for any time that I lost sight of the fact that it is just a game, whether it's soccer, softball, football, basketball, Little League or whatever. Ashamed of parents in general who push their own fantasy of athletic stardom onto their kids. Ashamed of the youth sports "movement" that has turned several pastimes into industries, making participation in a sport more like a job than an enjoyable way to spend an afternoon. So, that day I vowed to never again publicly criticize my child or anyone else's from the sidelines. I try to keep quiet now because I don't want to be a part of anything that makes a kid feel so bad about himself or herself.

Many of us are gearing up for Little League, softball and other youth sports that will monopolize our lives from now until mid-summer. I propose that we all take stock of our own "game faces" and decide if we like what we see. The way I see it, these sports are supposed to be about our kids having fun, being part of a positive team experience and learning what it means to win with grace and lose with dignity. Ideally, kids will learn something about the technical aspect of performing at their respective sport. A few kids will even stand out as "naturals" or exceptionally talented players, destined for bigger and better things in their futures. As a group, over-zealous parents do more to turn sports into a negative experience for their kids than any other set of people.

As a parent, I'd be the first to admit that I'm not always the perfect mother. I make my share of mistakes every day. Since my kids play sports on a regular basis I have a lot of opportunity to not only try to improve my own behavior, but to observe the whole milieu of kids' sports. In the spirit of Spring, I'd like to offer a few suggestions that all of us may want to think about.

Remember who this activity is for...if your child is playing Little League, it ideally would be because he wants to be out there playing. Ditto for softball, swimming, track, volleyball, etc, etc, etc. None of these sports should be about us, the parents. Of course, we all need to pitch in and volunteer in ways that will keep these sports organizations going. Again though, we should be doing this in support of our children, not because we want our kids to fill our own cleats.

Keep realistic goals and objectives about our kids' involvement in sports. The main goal should be for the child to be having a good time while enjoying a positive team experience, learning something, and being outside moving around. Too many parents have their own agendas...possible college scholarships in the future, a chance to "go pro," or simply, to relieve their own athletic glory or rehabilitate their own dashed hopes. Ideally, your child is playing for any of the former reasons and none of the latter ones.

At some point, your child may have a chance to play in a travel or club organization. Think long and hard about this one. Yes, your child could benefit from the more specialized coaching, training, intense playing schedules, practices and competition. Yes, your child may well be talented and dedicated enough to benefit from this experience. It may be an all-around good choice for your child. However, this will impact your entire family since there will be many practices at sites that could be up the freeway rather than down the street. There could be more travel and expense involved for games and tournaments. It could be much more expensive to just register a child and keep him/her playing. My family has personal experience with this one...we quit club soccer the day our child said she was beginning to hate the sport. The intensity of practice, the coach's drive to win, and too many dinners picked up in the drive-through and eaten before the car stopped...all of these things managed

to turn soccer into my child's job and sucked every bit of fun out of it, for all of us. Many of her teammates' parents were seeing club soccer as a vehicle to college scholarships. The way I see it, relatively few kids will get these coveted full or even partial rides to a college education. If you can afford the expense of club sports, why not put that money in a college fund instead? Then you know it will be there when your child wants it...and he/she can still play sports, albeit in a less intense setting.

When watching your child play, don't scream, yell or otherwise offer "encouragement." If your kid made a mistake, he/she will know it anyway. It seems that many parents take it extremely personally when their child either doesn't perform well, or is on a team that has players with less-than-average ability. Especially for the younger athletes, all they really want is the approval of their most important fans...their parents.

As a corollary, don't harass or abuse the officials. Yeah, the ump may need glasses or the ref may have made a lousy call but why make a scene? It embarrasses your child and provides a poor model for sportsmanship.

Resist the urge to involve your child in too many sports. An overloaded schedule is no fun for a child or his/her parents, who have to figure out how to get them from one place to the next. Decide as a family what's reasonable and stick to it. Prioritize!

These comments were offered as my opinion only. Your experiences with youth sports may be very different. I hope though, that we will all think about why we are out at the ball diamond or pool and that we remember just who this is all for.

Point Mugu

Please call 989-8146 for further information or to sign up for classes.

Couples' Communication, May 16 & 23, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Bldg. 116

Parenting Skills, May 16 & 23, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 116

Birth Basics, May 21, 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Bldg. 116

Enriching Relationships, May 21, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Bldg. 116

Personal Financial Management, May 22, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 116

Moving On Support Group, May 22, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Bldg. 116

Savings & Investments, May 28, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Bldg. 116

Play Mornings, Every Tues. 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Chapel Nursery

Preseparation Briefs, Every Thurs., 2 p.m., Bldg. 116

Port Hueneme

Please call 982-4117 for further information or to sign up for classes.

Create the Life You Want, May 16, 23, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Bldg. 1169

Parenting Ages 0-4, May 16 & 23, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Bldg. 1169

Anger Management, May 16 & 23, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Bldg. 1169

TAP, 20-23, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 1169

Homebuying, May 21, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Bldg. 1169

Ombudsman Training & Graduation, May 21, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Bldg. 1169

Successful Step-Families, May 21, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Bldg. 1169

Stress Management, May 21, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Bldg. 1169

Retired Activities Office, Daily, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Bldg. 1169

Preseparation Briefs, Every Tues. 2 p.m., Bldg. 1169

Baby & Me, Every Thurs., 11:00 a.m. – Noon, Bldg. 1169

Come join us on Friday, May 10, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Fleet and Family Service Center, Bldg. 1169 for our annual Military Spouse and Family Appreciation Day. Free balloons, face art, information tables, and upcoming schedules of events. There may even be a clown or two attending. Bring the whole family for a great time.

Chapel Schedule

Point Mugu

For information please phone 989-7967

Worship

Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Protestant Worship: 11:15 a.m.

Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday at 11:30 a.m.

Religious Education

Childrens Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m.

Catholic CCD: Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion: Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Port Hueneme

For information please phone 982-4358

Worship

Saturday Mass: 5 p.m.

Sunday Mass: Noon

Sunday Protestant Worship: 9:45 a.m. (Children's Church for ages 3-9)

Christian Science Service: 2 p.m.

Weekday Mass: Monday & Friday at 11:30 a.m.

Weekday Eucharistic Service: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m.